

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending and stand rejected. Specifically, claims 1-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. RE 37,784 to Fitzgibbon (“the Fitzgibbon patent”). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons stated below.

The Applicant’s system utilizes compressed data in a moveable barrier operator system. Data compression involves the use of fewer information bits than normally would be used to store or transmit the data. For instance, blank spaces can be removed from the data or redundant data may be replaced with codes. See, e.g., <http://www.rockprint.com/dictionary.shtml>.

As noted in the Applicant’s specification “depending upon the effective rate of compression, this compressed data can consume considerably less memory space than the uncompressed force information.” The additional storage space obtained by using compressed data is beneficial in various ways. For instance “a higher resolution view of the travel of the movable barrier can be accommodated.” In another example, “differing views of movable barrier movement (during different environmental conditions, for example) can be accommodated.” See Specification, paragraph 24.

Claim 1 recites a moveable barrier operator that includes a movable barrier controller, at least a first moveable barrier force sensor input, a first memory, and a second memory. The first movable barrier force sensor input is operably coupled to the movable barrier controller. The first memory operably is coupled to the movable barrier controller and first memory includes compressed data that corresponds to force data as regards movement of a movable barrier. The second memory operably is also coupled to the movable barrier controller and this second memory contains at least a portion of the compressed data in uncompressed form.

In contrast, the Fitzgibbon patent does not teach any use of compressed data or the use of any combination of compressed and uncompressed data. Specifically, the Fitzgibbon system relates to a barrier operator system where a storage device stores the commanded state of the barrier drive. The commanded state is stored and compared to the position of the barrier. Various actions can be taken based upon the comparison. See Fitzgibbon, col. 2, lines 1-35. Fitzgibbon is absolutely silent as to the use of compression/decompression techniques for the data. Indeed, Fitzgibbon is not concerned with the amount or usage of memory space at all.

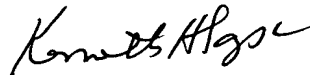
Consequently, the Applicant's recitations of compressed and uncompressed data are not taught or suggested in the Fitzgibbon reference. Since elements of claim 1 are not taught or suggested in the cited prior art, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is traversed and claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 18 is an independent method claim that specifically recites "compressing information that corresponds to at least some of the sensed force information to provide compressed force information," "storing the compressed information," and "uncompressing at least some of the compressed information." No such steps as compressing data, storing compressed data, or uncompressing some of the compressed data are suggested in the Fitzgibbon reference. Claim 32 is an independent apparatus claim that recites "data compression means operably coupled to the operator means for compressing force information to provide compressed force information." No such data compression means for compressing force information is suggested in the Fitzgibbon reference. Thus, it is believed that claims 18 and 32 are allowable for the same reasons as those given above with respect to claim 1. The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly upon the independent claims. Since the independent claims are allowable, it is believed that these dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons as those given with respect to claims 1, 18, and 32.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 during its entire pendency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

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